

Capsule Summary

Inventory No. WA-VI-2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

4406 Western Pike

Washington County, MD

Ca. 1805 (house); ca. 1900 (bank barn); ca. 1950 (orchard buildings)

Access: Private

Addendum to 1973 Oliver House (WA-VI-2) documentation.

As noted in the 1973 survey documentation of the Oliver House (WA-VI-2), the house and nearby buildings are part of the Fairfield Orchard tract of nearly 3,000 acres. As many as 7 additional tenant houses are located within the total acreage, generally dating from the 1920s and 1930s (these are not included in this documentation). This documentation covers only the acreage which includes the main house, the bank barn complex, and the warehouses and related facilities, approximately 45 acres. The surrounding orchard property is no longer actively producing; many of the fruit trees are gone and the fields overgrown, however, the extent of the operation can be discerned from the remnants. There are 8 contributing buildings and 2 contributing structures.

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard, which includes the Oliver House as its main dwelling, is significant under Criterion A as a representative example of the growth and development of orchard farming in the western districts of Washington County, Maryland. Beginning as early as the first decade of the 20th century, the Dillon family gathered the hill and valley land along Tonoloway Ridge and the Potomac River west of the town of Hancock. Taking advantage of the various transportation routes available in the area, including Western Maryland railroad, the National Pike (Western Pike) and the last years of the C&O Canal, the Dillon Orchards, first known as Forest Hill Orchard, grew through the purchase of nearby family-owned orchards until it reached

nearly 2,000 acres in size. The building complex associated with the Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard is significant under Criterion C both for the early dwelling known as the Oliver House and for the variety of buildings associated with orchard production.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-VI-2

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard (preferred); Oliver House (MIHP update)
other Dillon Orchards; Western Fruit Growers Co.; Blue Goose Growers, Inc.; Fairview Orchard

2. Location

street and number 4406 Western Pike not for publication
city, town Hancock ☒ vicinity
county Washington

3. Owner of Property (gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Fairview Orchards Landbesitz
street and number C/O Tim Davis, 1081 Maryland Ave. telephone
city, town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21740

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington Co. Courthouse liber 691 folio 626
city, town Hagerstown tax map 2 tax parcel 12 tax ID number N/A

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: MHT inventory

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	8	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	2	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	10	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			1	

7. Description

Inventory No. WA-VI-2

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/>	Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Addendum to 1973 Oliver House (WA-VI-2) description (Main House previously described)

As noted in the 1973 survey documentation of the Oliver House (WA-VI-2), the house and nearby buildings are part of the Fairfield Orchard tract of nearly 3,000 acres. As many as 7 additional tenant houses are located within the total acreage, generally dating from the 1920s and 1930s (these are not included in this documentation). This documentation covers only the acreage which includes the main house, the bank barn complex, and the warehouses and related facilities, approximately 45 acres. The surrounding orchard property is no longer actively producing; many of the fruit trees are gone and the fields overgrown, however, the extent of the operation can be discerned from the remnants. There are 8 contributing buildings and 2 contributing structures.

Migrant Worker's Bunkhouse – Constructed of concrete blocks, this one-story building is seventeen bays long with alternating window/door fenestration. Probably built c.1950. 1 contributing building.

Bank Barn – c.1900. This small frame bank barn has vertical board siding and plain, square vents on the side and gable end elevations. The stall area below the cantilevered forebay has closed ends but the front (east) wall (where the stall doors usually are located) is completely open. Two wood vent cupolas are located on the roof ridge. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal sheets. Painted on the north gable end, facing the Western Pike (old Rt. 40, now Rt. 144) are the words "Forest Hill." 1 contributing building.

Milk House – This small frame, gable front building appears to be a milk house. It sits approximately 20 feet to the north of the bank barn. Covered with German siding, there is a door in the north elevation and windows in the east and west elevations. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets. 1 contributing building.

Wagon Shed/Fruit Warehouse – c.1900. This frame gable front wagon shed has shed additions on the east and west side elevations. The wagon shed has sliding doors covering the wagon storage area on the north side (facing Western Pike) and is open on the south end; there is a loft area above. The western shed addition is one bay wide, enclosed with hinged doors; it was probably used for equipment storage. The eastern shed addition extends several bays wide and sits on brick piers and is enclosed with a sliding door. This section appears to have been used for fruit storage. In the north gable peak "R. G. Dillon" is painted (partially obscured). 1 contributing building.

Equipment Shed – This frame shed has vertical board siding and a metal roof. 1 contributing building.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-VI-2

Name Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Warehouse – c.1920. This frame building sits on the southeast corner of the intersection of Western Pike and Willow Road. Probably used as a fruit storage or packing facility the building has a sliding door in the west gable end and a long three bay addition on the south elevation. The addition has six over six sash windows. The building is sheathed with German siding overall; the roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets. 1 contributing building.

Storage Tank – Just southwest of the warehouse, along the east side of Willow Road, this steel tank is approximately 30 feet long and sits on raised concrete piers. Stored liquid, either water or pesticides. 1 contributing structure.

Concrete Foundation – Several hundred feet to the south along Willow Road is a poured concrete foundation structure. Approximately 200 feet in length (north to south) it has a concrete floor and walls, and concrete support piers down the center. The east and west walls are pierced with window or door openings; the north end has wider openings excavated to ground floor level. The building's use is unknown, possibly a packing house. 1 contributing structure.

Warehouse/Loading Docks – c.1950. The large warehouse building is constructed of concrete blocks with an arched metal roof. There are three large bays with vertical rising garage doors; the southernmost bay appears to be an office door and window. Four metal conical vents are located on the roof. On the north end elevation is a steel-framed loading dock enclosed on three sides with a gabled roof sheathed with corrugated metal sheets. The west elevation is open except for one garage bay on the south end (adjoining the warehouse section). 1 contributing building.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WA-VI-2

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion			
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> science			
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history			
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____			
Specific dates	c.1805-1953	Architect/Builder	Unknown				
Construction dates	c.1805 (house); c.1900 (bank barn); c.1950 (orchard buildings)						

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Addendum to 1973 Oliver House (WA-VI-2) documentation.

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard, which includes the Oliver House as its main dwelling, is significant under Criterion A as a representative example of the growth and development of orchard farming in the western districts of Washington County, Maryland. Beginning as early as the first decade of the 20th century, the Dillon family gathered the hill and valley land along Tonoloway Ridge and the Potomac River west of the town of Hancock. Taking advantage of the various transportation routes available in the area, including Western Maryland railroad, the National Pike (Western Pike) and the last years of the C&O Canal, the Dillon Orchards, first known as Forest Hill Orchard, grew through the purchase of nearby family-owned orchards until it reached nearly 2,000 acres in size. The building complex associated with the Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard is significant under Criterion C both for the early dwelling known as the Oliver House and for the variety of buildings associated with orchard production.

Resource History

The land on which the Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard were located were part of a nearly 7,000-acre grant called *Delacarla*, typical of the early division of land in the western reaches of Lord Baltimore's proprietary of Maryland. Prior to settlement, the western lands were often referred to as "the Barrens," mistakenly assumed to be infertile and of low agricultural value. During the first decades of the 18th century, restless farmers, many of them German or of German descent, began to migrate westward into central Pennsylvania and south into Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, in search of cheap land to settle and farm. Wealthy Maryland land speculators gathered large tracts of "the Barrens" to subdivide for sale or lease to the rising tide of industrious settler/farmers as they passed through the west-central Maryland region.

By the middle of the 19th century, the vast *Delacarla* tract had been subdivided into numerous smaller farms busy with the production of wheat, corn, fruits and livestock, taking full

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-VI-2

Name Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

advantage of the important transportation development along its eastern edge, the C&O Canal. Among the many purchasers of *Delacarla* land was Jacob Slagle (Schlegel), who owned not only the nearby grist mill on Little Tonoloway Creek, but also several parcels of land between the eastern face of Tonoloway Ridge and the western bank of the Potomac River (see attached copy of 1859 Taggart map of Washington County). Apparently, by 1859, Schlegel had passed away, however, his name appears on the parcel containing what would later be known as the "Oliver House" under the title "J. Slagle heirs." In 1865, acting as a trustee for the Schlegel estate, Joseph Murray sold the 266-acre parcel, part of *Delacarla*, to Wason Oliver.

The Oliver family owned this pleasantly located farm west of Hancock for more than 50 years. Rebecca Oliver purchased the farm from Wason Oliver in 1874, remaining there until 1911.¹ By the time Rebecca Oliver sold her farm to R. Samuel Dillon in 1911, there was already at least one commercial orchard already established in the narrow valley, The Tonoloway Orchard Company, land that would eventually become part of the much later Dillon Orchards.² The acreage was only 158 acres, but it adjoined land already owned Dillon along the north boundary.

R. Samuel Dillon had begun purchasing land in the area as early as 1900. Over the next 50 years, he would amass 1,966 acres of land, which he called Forest Hill Orchard.³ Dillon additionally owned tracts adjoining the Western Maryland Railroad, one called the "R.S. Dillon Brick Yard Tract," and another said to include a "Cold Storage and Packing House."⁴ During the same period, Dillon was acquiring other, smaller orchards in the area from 38 acres to 431 acres in size. These included the "Round Hill Orchard" (also called "Round Top Orchard"), "Smith Orchard", "Henline Orchard", "Frame Orchard", and "Bishop Orchard," which were consolidated in 1953 into one large orchard company called "Dillon Orchards."⁵ It was probably at this time that the larger packing and loading facilities were constructed along Willow Road, in order to prepare the products for shipping on the Western Maryland Railroad.

Dillon continued to add to his land holdings throughout the 1950s, including three more smaller orchards. By 1960, with more than 3,000 in orchard land, Dillon sold the property of 24 separate parcels to the Western Fruit Growers Sales Co. of California.⁶ The Western Fruit Growers merged with Blue Goose Growers, Inc., and later company was renamed the Pacific Lighting Land Company. Clearly, fruit growing in western Maryland was losing its local flavor and focus. In 1979, the vast orchard properties were sold again, to a German corporation which renamed the orchard to "Fairview Orchards."⁷ Rising labor costs through government crackdowns on migrant labor and the inability of relatively small eastern orchards to compete with the large orchards of California forced the abandonment of the old orchards.

Note: For Historical Context, please refer to *An Agricultural History of Mid-Maryland*, a Maryland Historical Trust grant funded context development project administered through The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WA-VI-2

- Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson, *Atlas of Washington County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: Titus & Co., 1877.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Western Maryland*. Originally published in 1882. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2002 CD-ROM copy.
- Taggart, Thomas. *Map of Washington County, Maryland*. 1859, wall map in Washington Co. Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD.
- Washington County Land Records, Washington Co. Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>Approx. 45 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Approx. 15 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Hancock, MD Quad</u>	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard property is part of Washington County Tax Map 2, parcel 12, beginning at a point on the western boundary of the whole parcel on the south side of a road trace, following the road in an easterly direction forming the northern boundary of the surveyed property until the road reaches the northern extension of Willow Road (a dirt track), the boundary joins an unnamed outline running east, then south to the north side of Western Pike, then continuing across Western Pike in a southwesterly straight line to the intersection of the old Round Hill Road and a dirt track, then turning northwesterly, following the north side of the dirt track to the intersection with Willow Road, then crossing Willow Road and continuing in an almost due north direction in a straight line to a point on the north side of Western Pike joining one of the outlines of parcel 12, and following the outline to the point of beginning. This is a representative section of the whole orchard tract which includes the majority of the associated historic buildings and some orchard fields.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	<u>Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian</u>	
organization	<u>Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.</u>	date <u>4 April 2003</u>
street & number	<u>105 N. Potomac Street</u>	telephone <u>301-739-2070</u>
city or town	<u>Hagerstown</u>	state <u>Maryland</u>

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-VI-2

Name Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

- ¹ Washington Co. Deed Book WMcKK 6, page 368.
- ² Washington Co. Deed Book 135, page 98.
- ³ Cited in Washington Co. Deed Book 359, page 350.
- ⁴ Cited in Washington Co. Deed Book 359, page 350.
- ⁵ Washington Co. Deed Book 274, page 551.
- ⁶ Washington Co. Deed Book 359, page 350.
- ⁷ Washington Co. Deed Book 691, page 626.

WORKER HOUSING

MAIN HOUSE

EQUIP. SHED

WAREHOUSE

TANK

LOADING DOCKS

WAREHOUSE

CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS

WESTERN PIKE

WILLOW ROAD

MILK HOUSE

BARN

FRUIT WAREHOUSE

WAGON SHED

SHED

WA-VI-2
FOREST HILL-DILLON ORCHARD
WASHINGTON CO., MD
SITE PLAN
(NOT TO SCALE)



P.8
P/O P.12
2 OF 3

68

U.S. SILICA CO.
472/648, 473/1
96.33A.
P.13

FAIRVIEW ORCHARDS
LANDBESITZ GMBH AND CO.
VERMOEGENSVERWALTUNG K.G.

691/626
975/996
792.18A.
P.12
1 OF 3

Map 2

Map 16

P.67

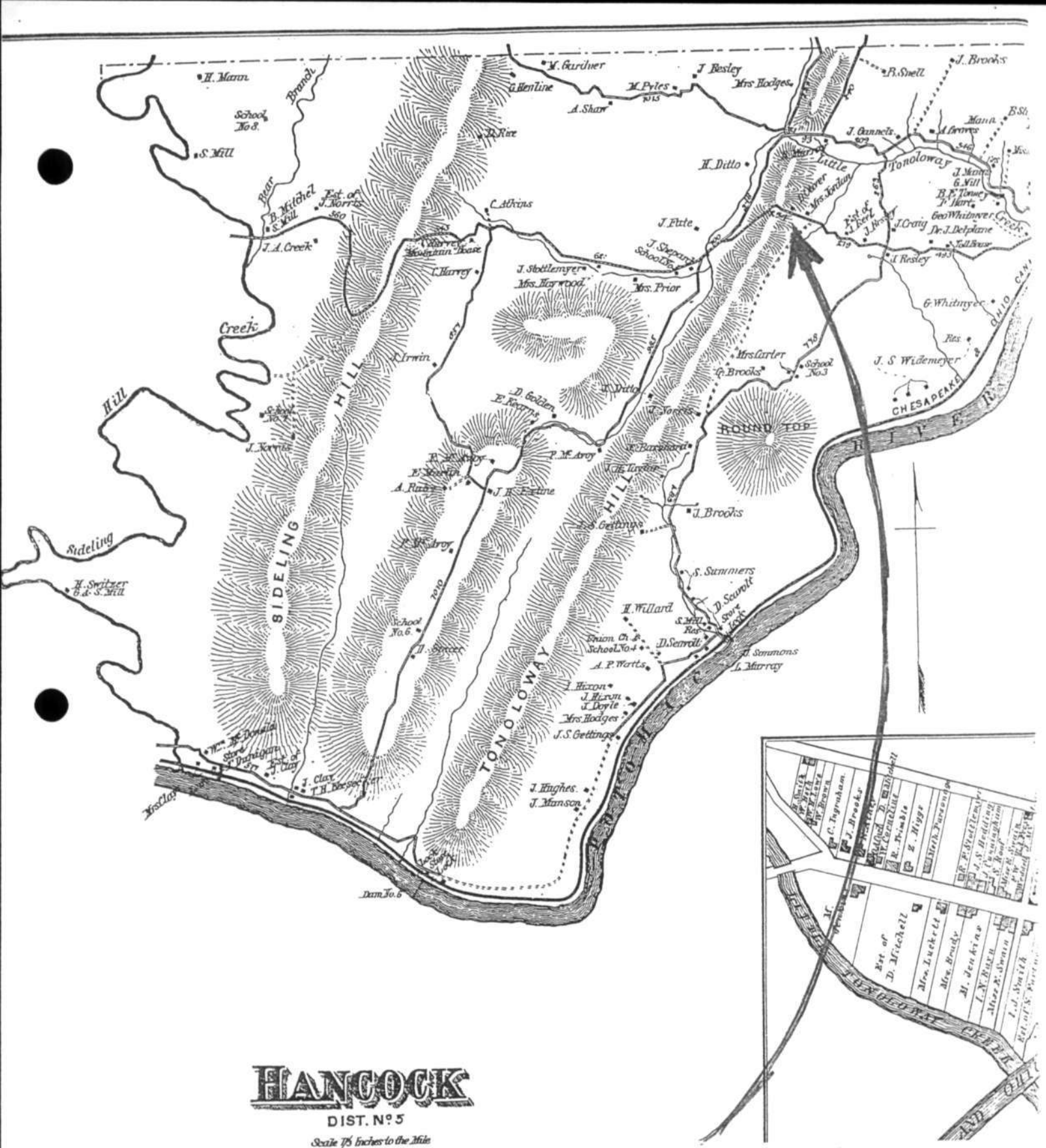
P.68

MAP 2 - P.12
1 OF 3

WESTERN

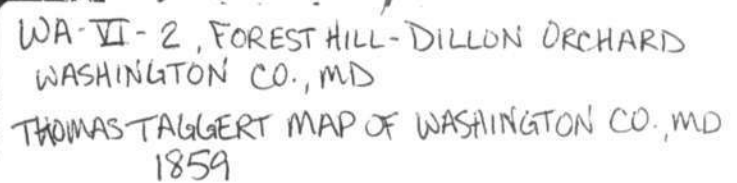
WA-VI-2 FORESTHILL-DILLON ORCHARD
WASHINGTON CO., MD
TAX MAP 2 AND 16, PARCEL 12
RESOURCE BOUNDARY MAP

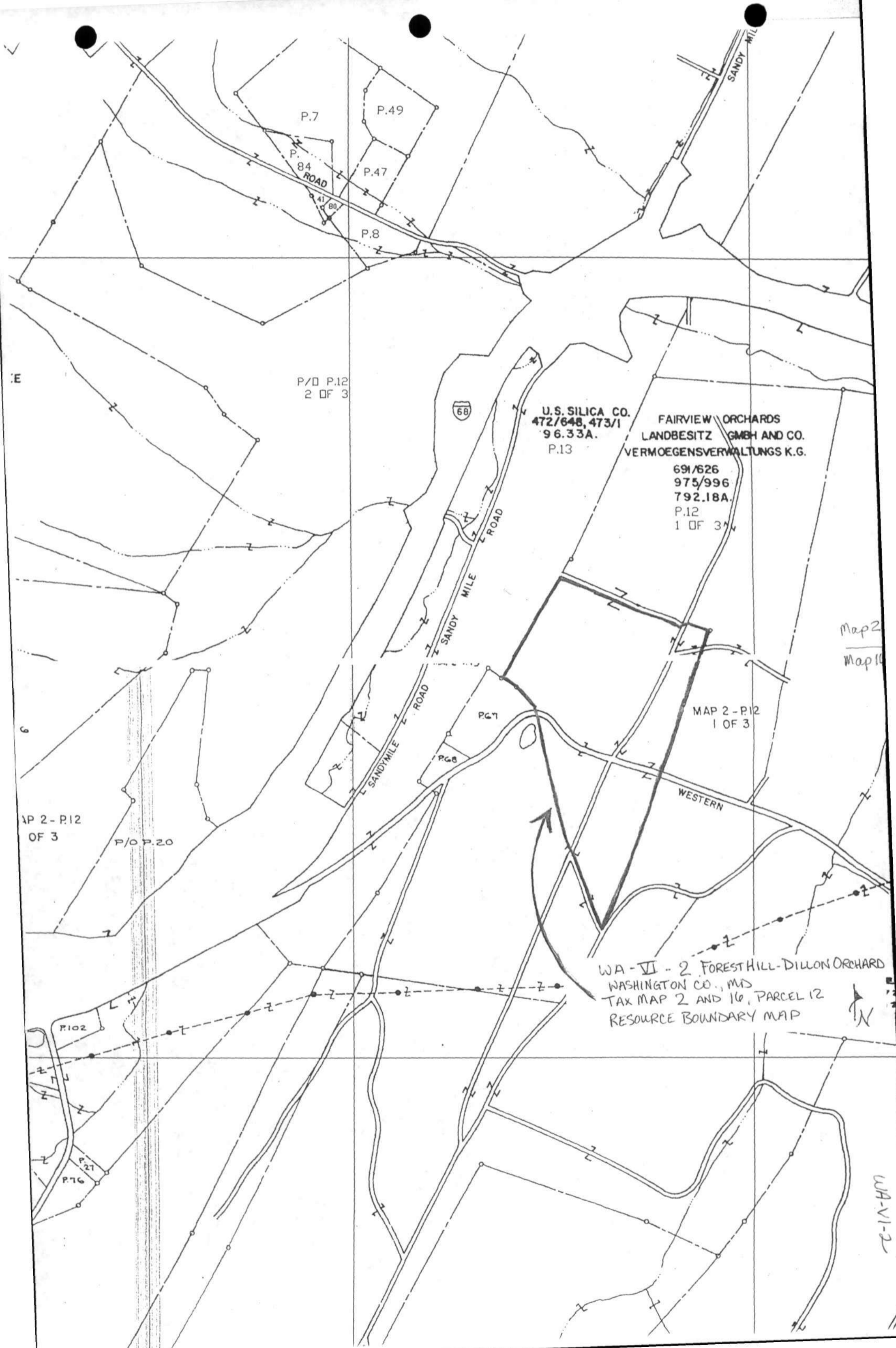
EV
12
2
7



WA-VI-2, FOREST HILL-DILLON ORCHARD
WASHINGTON CO., MD
ATLAS MAP OF WASHINGTON CO., MARYLAND
1877

Longitude from W





P.7

P.49

P.47

P.84

P.41

P.80

P.8

P/O P.12
2 OF 3

68

U.S. SILICA CO.
472/648, 473/1
96.33A.
P.13

FAIRVIEW ORCHARDS
LANDBESITZ GMBH AND CO.
VERMOEGENSVERWALTUNG K.G.
691/626
975/996
792.18A.
P.12
1 OF 3

Map 2
Map 10

MAP 2 - P.12
1 OF 3

WESTERN

AP 2 - P.12
OF 3

P/O P.20

P.102

P.27

P.16

WA-VI-2 FORESTHILL-DILLON ORCHARD
WASHINGTON CO., MD
TAX MAP 2 AND 10, PARCEL 12
RESOURCE BOUNDARY MAP

WA-VI-2

42°30'

5363 III NE
(BELLE GROVE)

WA-VI-2, FOREST HILL-DILLON ORCHARD
WASHINGTON CO., MD
USGS QUAD, HANCOCK, MD





WA-VI 2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co. MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MDSTPO

Farm setting, view N

1/10



WA-VI-2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MDS HPO

Oliver House, W and S elevations, view NE

2/10



WA-VI - 2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MDSHPO

Worker housing, W and S elevations, view NE

3/10



WA-VI-2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MDSHPO

Barn complex, N and E elevations, view SW

4/10



WA IV-2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MDS HPO

Wagon shed/Fruit warehouse, N elevation, view SW

5/10



WA-VI-2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co., MD

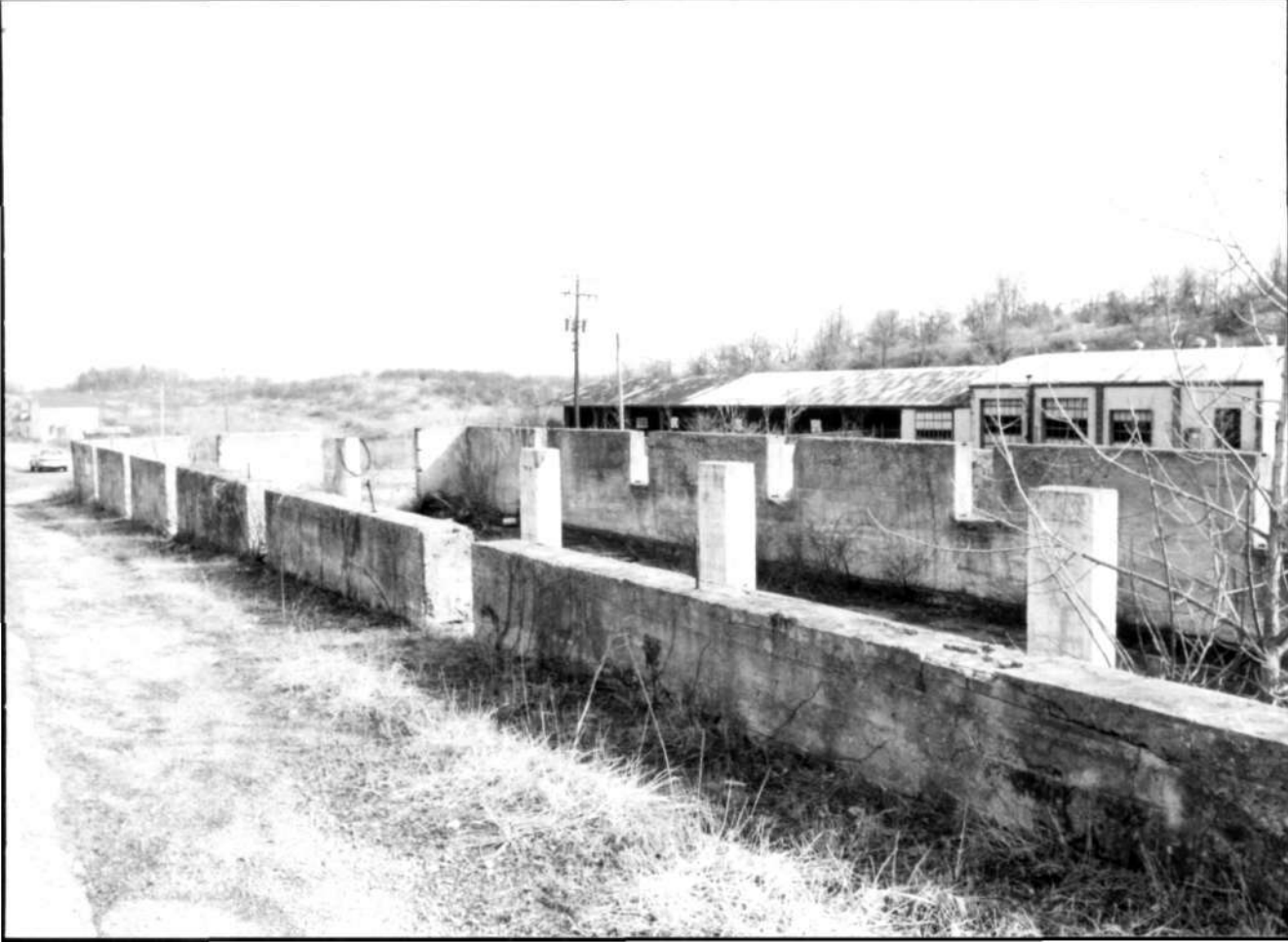
E. Wallace

2/03

MDSHPO

Warehouse + tank, view SE

6/10



WA-II-2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co. MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MD SHPO

Warehouse complex, view NE

7/10



WA-VI-2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MDSHPO

Concrete foundations, view N

8/10



WA-VI 2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MD SHPO

Warehouse/loading dock, W and S elevations,
view NE

9/10



WA VI-2

Forest Hill-Dillon Orchard

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

2/03

MDSHPO

Orchard setting, view S

10/10

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

2204185304

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Oliver House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 40, three miles west of Hancock			
CITY OR TOWN: Hancock, Route 1			
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington	
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Seasonal housing for migrant workers</u>
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Western Fruit Growers			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1			
CITY OR TOWN: Hancock		STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 359/350			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey, #5006			
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer, 1967 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oliver House is located on the north side of old U.S. Route 40, now Maryland Route 144, at its junction with Orchard Road, about three miles west of Hancock in Washington County, Maryland. It is built into a rise of ground and faces south or toward the road.

The house is a five-bay, two-story brick structure covered with white stucco and trimmed with dark green paint. A one-and-a-half story stone wing, four bays in length, extends from the north side of the brick structure. In the main section a brick chimney is located inside the south gable end. A large fieldstone chimney is present outside the north gable end of the stone section. A third chimney, constructed of brick rises from the interior of the stone section. The roofs of both parts are covered with corrugated sheet metal which is not original.

The foundations of the main section are high on the south and east sides of the house. They are constructed of roughly coursed local fieldstone. Above the foundations white stucco covers the original wall construction. Within the gables the end walls have been sheathed with wooden siding which is not original.

The walls of the one-and-a-half story wing are constructed of coursed local fieldstone. Two separate periods of building are represented in the stone section of the structure. A definite seam in the masonry can be seen between the first and second bays of the west wall, indicating that an addition was attached to an existing structure. The type of stone work on the north side of the seam differs significantly from that on the south section of the west wall.

Window openings are concentrated on the broad sides of both sections of the house. There are no windows in the gable ends except at the attic level. All windows in the facade and in the main floor of the stone section contain two-over-two pane sashes. The first floor windows along the facade of the house appear to have been elongated, probably sometime in the late 19th century and their proportions are not consistent with other windows in the structure. The second story windows at the rear of the brick section contain nine-over-six pane sashes which are probably original. The windows are simply framed with quarter round molding. At the attic level, the windows have been decorated with molded pediments at their heads. Two steeply gabled dormers are present to give light to the loft of the stone section. Other windows are located within the foundations at the front of the house under the first and fourth bays from the west end.

Doors are framed similarly to the windows. The main entrance is located in the second bay from the west end of the house. It opens into a wide stair hall which includes the two end bays of the house. The hall is lighted by the window in the west bay and by a transom over the door. Other exterior doors are located at the rear or north side of the main structure and at the ground level in the foundations at the east end of the house. In the stone section doors are without transoms and open directly into rooms. They are located at the second and fourth bays from the north end of the wing.

A molded cornice finishes the eaves and the overhang of the roof at the gables. The cornice is similar to the decorative molding over the attic level windows.

A small, flat roofed, late 19th century entrance porch sheds the main door. It is supported by square posts and has simplified ornamental lattice

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(CONTINUED ON ATTACHED SHEET.)

work. The east side of the stone section is protected by a low roofed porch extending along the entire length of the wing. It is included under the main roof span and is supported by narrow square posts.

The interior of the main section of the house is unusual in design. Rather than the standard five-bay, central hall plan, it has a two bay end hall and an off-center door. An entrance hall wider than one bay is uncommon in Washington County. Another unusual feature of this house is its closed string stair. Generally found among houses of the 17th century in the colonies, closed string stairs were apparently not widely used after 1700. Several houses dating from the late 18th century or early 19th centuries which have closed string stairs are located in the Hancock area. In the stone section, rooms are arranged on an axis, each with a separate door to the outside.

The Oliver House shows evidence of having been altered during the last quarter of the 19th century. The elongated first story windows, their two-over-two pane sashes, the exterior woodwork and the entrance porch are typical late 19th century renovations.

The property is within a large area of land owned by Western Fruit Growers. The 2,898.61-acre tract is part of an extensive orchard operation. The building is in fair to deteriorated condition and is used to house migrant workers. There is no substantiated date of construction for the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th CenturySPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) parts possibly built in late 18th century.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Oliver House is its architecture. Although a date of construction has not been established for the structure, it is an example of western Washington County's early architecture. Parts of the stone structure could date from the 18th century, but the house was most probably built in several sections during the first quarter of the 19th century. A detailed examination of the interior of the structure is necessary to estimate its age more closely.

The Oliver House stands on land originally patented to John Rideout of St. Mary's County on September 4, 1775. The tract, containing 6,895 acres was called "Dalecarlia."¹ Early records do not show any land transactions involving the property until 266 acres were conveyed to Wason Oliver in 1865 by Joseph Murray, acting as trustee for Jacob Schlagel who acquired the property in 1863. The tract remained in the Oliver family until 1911.

Samuel Rideout, who apparently acquired Dalecarlia from John Rideout, is listed as the seller or grantor in numerous land transactions between 1802 and 1813 when large portions of Dalecarlia were sold. The property on which the Oliver House stands may have been sold during that period.

The main section of the house is worthy of note because of its unusual five-bay, off-center floor plan. The room arrangement suggests that the placement of the hall at the end of the house may have helped insulate the living area from the prevailing westerly winds. The closed string main stair is significant as an example of a type found in several houses in the western part of the county. The stone section of the Oliver House is more typical of Washington County's early architecture. Large stone exterior chimneys and porches covered by the main roof span are frequently associated with Washington County's older vernacular houses.

The property was bought by its present owners in 1960.

¹ Map of western section Washington County, Maryland, showing original land grants and surveys, January, 1932, J. B. Ferguson and Co., Hagerstown, Md, 1939.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"		0	'	"	
NE	0	'	"		0	'	"	
SE	0	'	"		0	'	"	
SW	0	'	"		0	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2,898.61 acres

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant	
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historic Sites Survey	DATE September, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex	
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

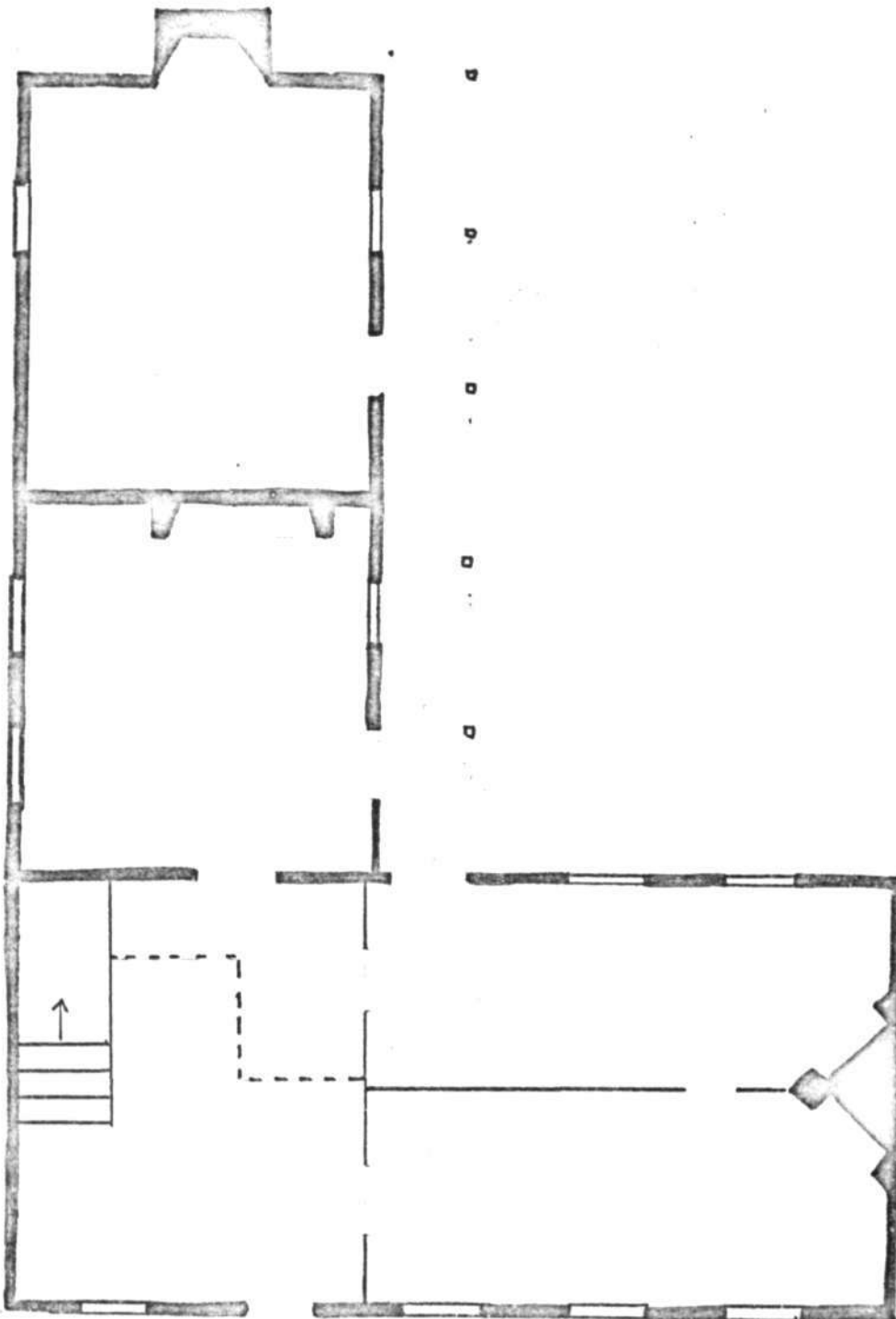
Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-VI-002

APPROXIMATE
FLOOR PLAN.

↑
N





WA-VI-202

S.W.



WA-11-002

S E



WA - VI - 002
E



WA-III-002

w,



P.S. Dickey

7/73

WA-VI-002

Detail E.